UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Friday, 14 July 2023
8:30 am
via Zoom

Attendees :, Anthony Paik, Eric Berlin, Karen Kalmakis, Jon Olsen, Steven Brewer, Michelle Trim, Neal Katz (Minutes)

Absent: David Hoagland, Janice Telfer

Neal Katz recorded the minutes

1. Minutes

   RC approved minutes of the 16 June 2023 meeting submitted by Karen Kalmakis and the 14 April 2023 meeting submitted by Eric Berlin.

2. Summer approval

   a. Removal of continuation policy for the College of Engineering
      Approved by the RC.
   b. Approved new course in College of Engineering.

2. Discussion items

   a. Nominations (Vacancies on the Nominating Committee)
      Discussed names and made recommendations.
   b. OURS update
      Students affairs and SGA made a request about resources for student research opportunities on campus. A website has been launched. Goal is searchable database by Fall 2024. Talked about whether it should be centralized or not. Biological science programs have a centralized site. Students are not equally aware of the projects available which raises equity issues.
   c. Segal
      Talk about it at rules-admin. Not sure if it will continue with new leadership.
      Nursing wants it to continue.
   d. Privacy related to Glean and transcription technology

OtterAI another transcription program. Need to set up guidelines or rules about data mining etc. with transcription services. Federal law trumps state law. Why use a system that could violate state law if it is not absolutely necessary?

e. Equity action plans

There is an instrument existing that could help, the Pulse rubric. Should involve existing groups on campus. Letter from TIDE Ambassadors offering to help was ignored. Going to check with Provost about current status.

f. Search and evaluation procedures

Provided latest version to the new Chancellor. Going to talk about it at Rules-Admin.

g. Flex

Administration is going to rewrite policy to allow students to take flex classes. Allow Mt. Ida students to take Flex classes. Has to be approved by Academic affairs. Also possibly the budget committee. Decided to let the Secretary of the Faculty Senate have a go at writing a policy.

h. Retitle form

Looked over new form. Should there be budgetary information added as well?

Require a 5 year budget like for other academic programs.

i. VCRE fee-for-service proposal submissions

Proposal to charge for many grant services. Isn't indirect supposed to cover that already? Tony will meet with the new vice chancellor.

Next time:

j. Secretary updates (Ombuds transition; Taskforces – AI and Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement; Senate districts; APBC; QQ certificate reviews; medical excuses; website development; required syllabus elements; mode of teaching/flex fees and accommodations)